

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

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P 071615Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4388

S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 0324

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER)

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER AGAIN REQUESTS VISIT BY SECRETARY

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM THE AMBASSADOR

ON MAY 7 PAUL HELMINGER, WHO IS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER, CALLED IN DCM TO CONVEY THORN'S INVITATION FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER TO VISIT LUXEMBOURG IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE. THORN HOPES FOR THE VISIT BEFORE HE LEAVES ON JUNE 5 FOR THE USSR, TO ACCOMPANY THE GRAND DUKE ON A STATE VISIT AND PROBABLY MEET WITH BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN. ACCORDING TO HELMINGER, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THORN AS A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE U.S. TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE SECRETARY'S COUNSEL AS HE PREPARES FOR THE UNGA AND EUROPEAN COUNCIL PRESIDENCES IN COMING MONTHS. ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG COULD BE LIMITED TO A STOP-OVER OF SEVERAL HOURS, THORN SAID THAT SUCH A GESTURE ON THE SECRETARY'S PART WOULD BE OF IMMENSE PERSONAL VALUE TO HIM. HELMINGER ADDED THE HOPE THAT WE WOULD HAVE THE SECRETARY'S REPLY TO THORN'S INVITATION BY MAY 16 IN ORDER FOR THE GOL TO PLAN ACCORDINGLY. HE ADDED THAT THORN WOULD BE BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED IF THE SECRETARY WAS AGAIN UNABLE TO ACCEPT HIS INVITATION, SINCE THE SECRETARY'S UPCOMING VISIT TO WESTERN EUROPE MIGHT AFFORD THE LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR A SHORT VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG BEFORE THORN ASSUMES HIS UNGA AND EC FUNCTIONS LATER THIS YEAR.

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COMMENT: INVITATIONS FROM THORN TO THE SECRETARY ARE NOTHING NEW, BUT WE SENSE A PARTICULAR URGENCY THIS TIME IN THE TONE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ARE VISITING LUXEMBOURG THIS MONTH. THE TOP SOVIET LEADERS ARE ALSO RECEIVING THORN SHORTLY. IN MY VIEW, PERSONAL ATTENTION FROM THE SECRETARY IS NECESSARY TO MAKE SURE THAT U.S. INTERESTS ARE WELL DEFENDED DURING THORN'S PRESIDENCIES OF THE UNGA AND EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THORN'S BASIC ATTITUDE ON COOPERATING WITH THE U.S. MAY WELL DEPEND ON OUR REACTION TO HIS INVITATION. FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO OVERCOME HIS PRIDE TO AGAIN INVITE THE SECRETARY IS A SIGN OF HOW VITAL THE ISSUE IS TO HIM. SENSING THAT THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER MAY BE AT STAKE, I URGE THAT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THORN'S INVITATION.FARASK

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